



## PRESS RELEASE

On Thursday, March 29, the Cyprus American Business Association (CyABA) and the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia cosponsored a workshop and round table discussion on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) enforcement in Cyprus. Ambassador Schlicher opened the event, which was held at the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce building in Nicosia, from 08:30 to 14:30.

The workshop provided a forum for discussion of IPR issues among the various Government of Cyprus agencies dealing with IPR (including the Police, Department of Customs, the Competition and Consumer Protection Division, and the Office of the Official Receiver and Registrar) and private sector representatives from both Cyprus and abroad. Representatives from the software, film, music and merchandise industries voiced their concerns on IPR enforcement in a constructive and informal way. The discussion evolved around practical ways of making enforcement more effective and resulted in practical suggestions to enhance these efforts.

The event is becoming something of an institution in Cyprus, as it is the third of its kind, following the success of two similar workshops earlier (in November 2005 and April 2004). The workshop featured international speakers from the Business Software Alliance (BSA), and the Federazione Industria Musicale Italiana (FIMI). The event resulted in better communication between the government and private sectors on fighting IPR piracy.

CyABA, operating under the auspices of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), has always attributed great importance to the protection of IPR in Cyprus and co-sponsored this workshop to better serve the needs of the business community in Cyprus.